

it hawks backwards and forwards over the same stretch of ground ; in Gorongoza it seemed very partial to the native lands, where it just flew clear of the heads of the standing grain. After several turns the birds frequently settled on the topmost and outstanding branches of dead trees, where they could be easily approached ; they shewed no fear even when a shot was fired near them. The call and flight of this species resemble those of *H. holomelæna*, but it is not nearly so silent.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill black ; legs and toes dark brown.]

381. *PITTA LONGIPENNIS*.

**P.** Tambarara, Mch. (1).

[The specimen secured is the only one that I have seen. It was accidentally caught in a springe set for *Petrodromus tetradactylus* in the Gorongoza forests. On enquiring from the natives, they said the bird was plentiful, but although I was continually on the look-out I did not see it, and could not learn the call, if it had any. My boys further told me that it was not essentially a ground-bird, but was equally at home among the branches, but, of course, I could not verify this.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill blackish brown, lighter at tip and middle of lower mandible ; legs and toes fleshy white.]

[To be continued.]

XVI.—*Notes on the Ornithology of Corsica.*—Part II.

By the Rev. FRANCIS C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

[Continued from p. 208.]

(Text-figures 11 & 12.)

34. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS* L. Tawny Pipit.

A summer visitor, breeding in fair numbers on the barren hillsides, and probably also locally in the low ground. Whitehead found it plentiful after the end of April, and breeding, but failed to obtain any nests. Giglioli, however,

notes it as "Comune, specialmente d'inverno" on his own and Whitehead's authority, although the latter appears not to have met with it in winter. We came across a fair number of birds in various districts during May, evidently breeding, but should not describe the species as plentiful, although it is generally to be met with on suitable ground. The only nest found was beautifully concealed under a young vine on a hillside, and contained four fresh eggs on May 21. Parrot received three specimens from the neighbourhood of Ajaccio early in June.

35. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS* (L.). Tree-Pipit.

Occurs on migration. Wharton saw none in winter, but met with several individuals on the east coast after April 10, while Whitehead records a small flock migrating on April 21.

36. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS* (L.). Meadow-Pipit.

A common winter visitor, but the evidence of its remaining to breed is not quite satisfactory, though Wharton speaks of it as "Common and resident." Whitehead only says that it is common in the winter months, but Playne found it fairly numerous in suitable spots in April. Parrot notes it as tolerably frequent in small parties of from three to six birds, or in pairs, near Ajaccio in January and February, but it had already become scarce in March, and he only heard the note twice on March 17. We never came across it in May.

37. *ANTHUS SPINOLETTA SPINOLETTA* (L.). Alpine Pipit.

Mr. Crosfield saw a bird in the forest of Vizzavona at about 5000 ft. above the sea, which must have belonged to this species ('Zoologist,' 1891, p. 374). Schiebel was, however, the first to record it definitely from Corsica, and notes that it is not rare, and is apparently rather darker on the upper surface than is usual with mid-European specimens. Parrot met with this species on only one occasion, at the top of the Col de Vizzavona, where small parties or pairs haunted the sheltered patches among the juniper bushes on March 30, at which date the country northward was still under deep snow. It is probably resident in small numbers on the higher mountains.

## 38. ANTHUS SPINOLETTA OBSCURUS (Lath.). Rock-Pipit.

Whitehead records one specimen shot from a small flock feeding in a marsh on March 25. Parrot also noted either an Alpine or Rock Pipit on the Isles Sanguinaires on March 28, and mentions having seen another apparently similar bird on the Punta della Parata in February. Although Alpine Pipits might well descend to the coast in February, we should expect to find them at higher levels in Corsica by the end of March.

## 39. MOTACILLA FLAVA FLAVA L. Blue-headed Wagtail.

Occurs on passage in April. Wharton saw several in April, and Whitehead noted a good many on passage from April 22 to May 1. There is no evidence of this species remaining to breed.

## 40. MOTACILLA FLAVA CINEREOCAPILLA Savi. Grey-headed Wagtail.

Wharton records a few at Biguglia in April, together with the preceding form, and Whitehead met with a large party on migration on April 16.

## 41. MOTACILLA BOARULA BOARULA L. Grey Wagtail.

Local name: *Culitremola* (Giglioli), generic. Resident in scattered pairs on most of the rapid mountain-streams, and descending during winter to the sea-coast when the weather is severe, although Major Trevelyan saw Wagtails at Vizzavona in February, with twenty inches of snow on the ground. Wharton found two nests conspicuously placed on the face of bare rocks overhanging streams. One of these had six eggs on April 21, while the other contained nearly fledged young on April 26.

## 42. MOTACILLA ALBA ALBA L. White Wagtail.

Local name: *Culitremola* (Giglioli), generic. A common winter visitor, arriving in autumn and remaining till March. Playne, however, notes that "very few" were seen by him between April 10 and 21, while crossing the island.

43. *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS CORSA* Hartert. Corsican Tree-Creeper.

*Certhia familiaris corsa* Hartert, Vögel der paläarkt. Fauna, i. p. 320 (1905—Corsica).

Although this bird is far from common, a few pairs are resident in most of the mountain forests, but it is apparently absent from the low ground. It is slightly larger than the mid-European form, with a long bill and more distinct markings on the upper surface. It haunts both the chestnut and pine forests. Wharton observed it in the chestnut groves at Corte, and Backhouse also met with it in similar localities in winter; while both Whitehead and I found it sparingly distributed in the pine forests, and two nests, each containing five eggs, were taken by me about May 20–26 at over 3000 ft. alt.: the usual site appears to be behind a piece of loose bark. The average size of ten Corsican eggs is  $16.13 \times 12.4$  mm.; max.  $16.6 \times 12.4$  and  $16.4 \times 12.7$ ; min.  $15.5 \times 12.3$  and  $16 \times 12.2$ . Unlike the eggs of *C. brachydactyla*, they are only sparingly marked, chiefly at the big end, with red-brown spots, which tend to form a zone.

44. *SITTA CANADENSIS WHITEHEADI* Sharpe. Whitehead's Nuthatch.

*Sitta whiteheadi* Sharpe, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1884, pp. 233, 414, pl. xxxvi.

Local name: *Pichiu* (Giglioli). This most interesting little Nuthatch, distinguishable at a glance by the black cap of the male, was discovered by John Whitehead on June 12, 1883, when he shot a single cock bird. In the following season he returned to the same locality early in May, and succeeded not only in obtaining several specimens but also in discovering the nest and eggs. During eleven days' work in the mountain forests he found nine nests, but some of these were in holes 70 to 100 ft. from the ground, in dead and much decayed pine-trees, and were quite inaccessible. Believing the bird to be confined to this one district and not wishing to hasten its extermination, Whitehead never divulged the locality where he obtained his

specimens. Giglioli, writing in 1890, says that he saw a Nuthatch on September 16, 1877, at Ponte alla Leccia, but did not fire at it, believing it to be *Sitta cæsia*. In the spring of 1896 Dr. A. Koenig visited the forest of Vizzavona and with considerable difficulty obtained five specimens, but was too early for nests, while Mr. A. D. Sapsworth discovered another colony in the early autumn of 1900, and brought home skins. No eggs were, however, taken between 1884 and 1908, when I was fortunate early in May in finding several pairs obviously breeding in pine-forest at over 3000 ft. Returning towards the end of the month, I took three nests with eggs, and found a fourth with young during two days spent in the forest. In 1909 two more nests with eggs were taken, and a third proved to contain young about a week old. Since then Dr. Schiebel has described the juvenile plumage of the male, and Ritter von Tschusi's collector has sent skins from the Vizzavona forest.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the bird is in no danger of extermination, and is not, as Professor Giglioli supposed, a vanishing form, confined to one isolated locality. On the contrary, I have the best of reasons for believing that it is widely but somewhat locally distributed in the pine-forests of Corsica, and am aware of at least three localities, all at considerable distances apart, in which the bird is tolerably common. Owing to the broken nature of the ground and the scarcity of roads, it is extremely difficult to explore the country systematically, and as the Nuthatch spends most of its time among the upper branches of the pines, so small a bird is very easily overlooked except by those who are well acquainted with its notes and habits. The nests, too, are, as a rule, only obtainable with difficulty and a considerable amount of danger, for the wood is not soft enough for the somewhat weak bill of this species to work until the tree is advanced in decay. Such trees have generally lost all their bark and stand out like bare white masts among the living trees. As a rule, they are rotten at the base, but being sheltered from the wind by their neighbours and offering little resistance owing to the absence of side branches, they

will stand until they can almost be pushed down by hand. As may be imagined, it is by no means pleasant work cutting out a nest at a height of fifty or sixty feet from the ground in a tree which rocks ominously from side to side all the time and may come down at any moment, and I have never been able to obtain any assistance in this task from the natives. Occasionally I have been lucky enough to discover a nest at a moderate height. The lowest I have seen was close to the top of a stump 17 ft. high, which was so rotten that we were obliged to support it by means of three stout poles laid against it and roped together at the top, before it would bear a man's weight, and after all the hole proved to contain young about a week old! It is pleasant to be able to confirm the accuracy of Whitehead's notes on his species in 'The Ibis,' 1885, pp. 28-31, but in one or two cases I am able to supplement them. Thus in several cases old nesting-holes of *Dendrocopus major* were certainly used, and the external opening in these cases was quite neatly rounded. The hissing sound, which closely resembles the word "sch-wer, sch-wer," forms no part of the call-notes or song of this species, but is the alarm-note. The song is a rapidly uttered whistle, "Pe-pe-pe-pe-pe-pe-pe," not unlike that of *Parus major corsus*. Few birds are more confiding: while engaged in cutting out a nest I have frequently had both the bird within arm's length, apparently displaying much interest in the proceedings, and while cutting away the wood at the back of a nest I have seen the hen make several attempts to enter at the other side. In most cases the full clutch consisted of six eggs, sometimes of only five. The breeding-season is rather variable. In one case the first egg must have been laid about May 1, while two other nests contained full clutches on May 12 and 18, but the best average date is about May 25 or 26. When the young are first hatched they are sat upon by the hen. The cock bird brings food to the nest at short intervals, calls the hen off, and remains some little time inside feeding the young. On his leaving, the hen re-enters the nest and covers the young till he returns. I have seen this repeated half a dozen times.

The eggs vary somewhat, some clutches being more heavily marked than others, but, as a rule, they are handsomely spotted and blotched with rich red-brown at the big end. Average size of forty-two eggs (14 collected by Whitehead and 28 by the writer),  $17.18 \times 12.96$  mm.; max.  $18.5 \times 13.3$  and  $18 \times 13.5$ , min.  $16 \times 12.5$  and  $16.5 \times 12.1$ . Average weight of 17 eggs, 82.2 mg.

The text-figures (pp. 444, 445) will give some idea of the usual breeding-places of this species. Text-fig. 11 (drawn from a photograph taken by Mr. R. H. Read) represents the ascent of a dead pine which contained a nest in an old Woodpecker's hole, about 40 ft. from the ground. Text-fig. 12 illustrates a nest-hole picked out in a pine by the Nuthatches, which was only about 18 ft. up; the pine was badly cracked a foot or two above the nest.

45. *PARUS MAJOR CORSUS* Kleinschm. Corsican Great Tit.

*Parus corsus* Kleinschmidt, Ornith. Monatsber. xi. p. 6 (1903—Corsica).

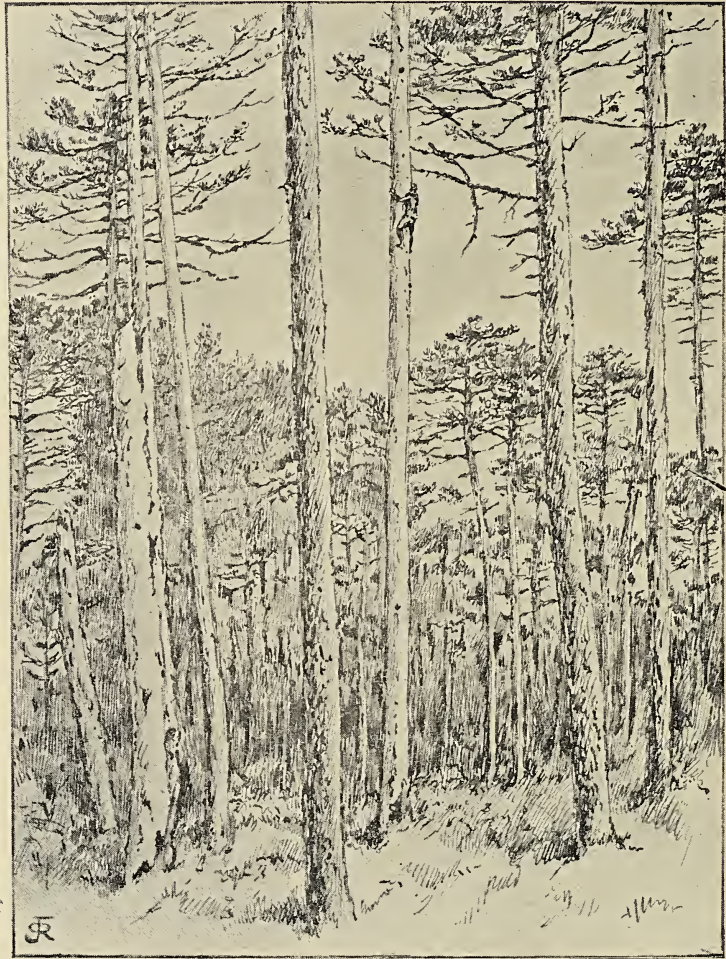
Local name: *Capinera*. Differs from the ordinary continental form in its slightly smaller size and shorter wing-measurement, while the white spot on the inner web of the outer tail-feathers is much smaller and sometimes almost absent. An extremely common and widely distributed resident, breeding in the holes of the cork-oaks on the low ground and also in fair numbers in the mountain forests. The eggs, seven to nine in number, may be found in the latter half of May. Average size of 48 eggs,  $17.98 \times 13.72$  mm.; max.  $19.3 \times 13.2$  and  $17.3 \times 14.5$ , min.  $17 \times 13.3$  and  $17.2 \times 13.2$ . Some clutches are very boldly marked.

46. *PARUS CÆRULEUS OGLIASTRÆ* Hart. Corsican Blue Tit.

*Parus cæruleus ogliastræ* Hartert, Vögel pal. Fauna, i. p. 349 (1905—Sardinia and Corsica).

Local name: *Sturzapridi* (Giglioli). A darker race than the ordinary continental form, in this respect closely resembling the British Blue Tit, and shorter winged than *P. cæruleus cæruleus*. Though a common resident, it is not nearly so plentiful as *P. major corsus*, but is equally

Text-fig. 11.



Typical Nesting Place of *Sitta canadensis whiteheadi* in a dead *Pinus*  
about 40 feet from the ground.

(Nest in old hole of *Dendrocopus major*.)



Text-fig. 12.



Nest of *Sitta canadensis whiteheadi* in a small dead *Pinus*  
about 18 feet from the ground.

(Nest-hole excavated by *Sitta*.)

widely distributed. Clutches of from six to eight eggs may be found from May 11 to 28, according to elevation. Average size of 23 eggs,  $15.18 \times 11.88$  mm.; max.  $16 \times 12$  and  $15.2 \times 12.3$ , min.  $14.3 \times 12.3$  and  $15 \times 11.4$ .

47. *PARUS ATER SARDUS* Kleinschm. Corsican Coal-Tit.

*Parus sardus* Kleinschmidt, Orn. Monatsber. xi. p. 186 (1903—Sardinia).

The material at present available seems insufficient to decide the status of the Corsican Coal-Tit. Wharton, Whitehead, Playne, Backhouse, and I only met with it in the mountain forests and saw none on the low ground. Parrot, however, found it not rare near the Gulf of Ajaccio in January and February, and the specimens obtained by him appear to be smaller and shorter-winged than typical *P. ater* and apparently belong to the form *P. ater sardus*. Two specimens from Vizzavoua and Aitone are, however, longer-winged, and, as already pointed out by Hartert (Vög. pal. Fauna, i. p. 358), the Corsican mountain birds appear to belong to another race. A nest found by me among the roots of a pine contained six much incubated eggs on May 27: other pairs were building in stumps at over 3000 ft. alt. on May 13 and 26. Average size of six eggs,  $15.5 \times 12.5$  mm.; max.  $15.9 \times 12.6$ , min.  $15.3 \times 12.6$  and  $15.4 \times 12.3$ .

48. *ÆGITHALUS CAUDATUS TYRRHENICUS* Parr. Corsican Long-tailed Tit.

*Ægithalus caudatus tyrrhenicus* Parrot, Orn. Jahrb. xxi. p. 155 (1910—Corsica).

Whether the Corsican Long-tailed Tit is really entitled to separation from *Æ. caudatus irbii* is still a somewhat open question, for Dr. Parrot and Dr. Schiebel had only Italian specimens for comparison, and, as I have pointed out already\*, the Italian form, *Æ. caudatus italiae*, is easily distinguishable from the Spanish race. The differences between Corsican and Spanish birds are not nearly so apparent, but I have only been able to examine a few

\* Bull. B. O. C. xxvii. p. 39.

Corsican skins. The wing-measurement of the Corsican race appears, however, to be rather less than that of the other continental forms. On the low ground and the brush-grown hills this bird is a not uncommon resident. Whitehead took two nests, each with seven eggs, on April 20 and 23; and I found young in the nest on May 8 and saw a family-party on the wing on May 23. Average size of 18 Corsican eggs,  $14.14 \times 10.77$ ; max.  $15.5 \times 11$  and  $14.5 \times 11.2$ , min.  $13 \times 10.3$ . In habits and notes it closely resembles the other Long-tailed Tits.

49. *REGULUS REGULUS INTERNI* Hart. Sardinian Gold-crest.

*Regulus regulus interni* Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. p. 45 (1906—Sardinia and Corsica).

This race can be recognised without difficulty by the greenish tinge of the upper side and the grey supercilium and nape. It is apparently confined to the mountain-forests, and is not as a rule common, though Parrot found it fairly numerous in the forest of Aitone.

50. *REGULUS IGNICAPILLUS MINOR* Parr. Corsican Fire-crest.

*Regulus ignicapillus minor* Parrot, Orn. Jahrb. xxi. p. 156 (1910—Corsica).

According to Dr. Parrot, a smaller and shorter-winged race, with less yellow in the greenish upper surface. It is much more generally distributed than the Goldcrest, and is found throughout the year in the low ground. Near the Gulf of Ajaccio, Backhouse and Parrot describe it as common and general. Whitehead also observed it as high as 2500 ft. in the mountains.

51. *LANIUS SENATOR BADIUS* Hartl. Corsican Wood-Chat.

*Lanius badius* Hartlaub, J. f. O. 1854, p. 100 (Gold Coast).

Local names: *Fierla* (north), *Mascuchia* (south); *Caporosso* (Giglioli). A very distinct form, which can be recognised at once by the absence of the white alar bar in the male and its restricted dimensions in the female, as well

as by its stouter bill. This is one of the most striking of Corsican birds, and is a summer visitor to the island in considerable numbers, arriving first about April 15–24, and being distributed throughout most of the low ground and in the hills, where there is open ground and cultivation, up to about 2500 ft. (For a fuller account of its habits as observed in Corsica by the writer see 'British Birds,' iii. pp. 369–370.) The nest is quite characteristic, and is usually placed higher than that of *L. collurio jourdaini*, while the eggs, which are from five to seven in number, are generally laid by the fourth week in May. They do not vary much as a rule, but Whitehead found one clutch of salmon-coloured eggs out of twenty examined, and I obtained two sets of this beautiful variety in 1909. Average size of sixty Corsican eggs,  $23\cdot11 \times 17\cdot27$  mm.; max.  $26 \times 17\cdot5$  and  $22\cdot2 \times 18\cdot2$ , min.  $22 \times 16\cdot5$ . Hartert states (Vög. pal. Fauna, i. p. 437) that some Sardinian and Corsican specimens, which from the dates are presumably passage migrants, are indistinguishable from the ordinary continental form, *Lanius senator senator* L.

52. *LANIUS COLLURIO JOURDAINI* PART. Corsican Red-backed Shrike.

*Lanius collurio jourdaini* Parrot, Orn. Monatsber. xviii. p. 154 (1910—Corsica).

Local name: *Ciuchana*. This form was separated by Dr. Parrot on account of its generally smaller dimensions and shorter wing, the deeper colouring of the under surface, especially on the flanks, the smaller amount of red-brown on the back, and the generally wider black band on the outer tail-feathers. Kleinschmidt (Orn. Monatsber. 1901, ix. p. 169) noticed that in Sardinian specimens the amount of red on the mantle was much reduced and the under surface whiter, but these characters seem to be somewhat unreliable. In eighteen examples examined by Dr. Parrot and myself the wing varies from 87 to 91 mm. in length, only once attaining 92·5, while in continental specimens it varies from 91 to 98. This Shrike is a common summer visitor to the hills as well as to the plains, arriving, according to Whitehead,

on April 24, 1883, and May 5, 1884 ; but a single bird was seen on January 1, and Giglioli records another near Corte on October 8. The nest is often placed quite close to the ground in thick bushes, and the eggs, five to seven, occasionally even eight, in number are on average smaller than British and continental specimens, while the ground-colour is generally creamy or bluish and the reddish type is quite rare. Average size of 50 Corsican eggs,  $21\cdot53 \times 16\cdot07$  mm.; max.  $23 \times 16\cdot5$  and  $22\cdot2 \times 17\cdot5$ , min.  $20\cdot3 \times 14\cdot6$ .

53. *MUSCICAPA STRIATA TYRRHENICA* Schieb. Corsican Spotted Flycatcher.

*Muscicapa striata tyrrhenica* Schiebel, Orn. Jahrb. xxi. p. 102 (1910—Corsica).

Local names: *Sichi* (north), *Spizicha bugni* (south). A short-winged race, rather lighter and with more indistinct markings on the under surface. A very common and widely distributed summer visitor, arriving first about April 17 or 20, and breeding not only in the low ground but also in the mountain forests to at least 3200 feet. Average size of six Corsican eggs,  $18\cdot31 \times 14\cdot2$  mm.; max.  $19 \times 14\cdot7$ , min.  $17\cdot4 \times 13\cdot5$ . They may be found from May 20 onward, on trees, stumps, walls, niches of rock, &c.

54. *MUSCICAPA HYPOLEUCA* Pall. (*M. atricapilla* auct.). Pied Flycatcher.

Occurs on passage in April. Wharton found it not uncommon near Bastia and Biguglia after April 13. Whitehead noticed a good many after April 17, 1883, and April 22, 1884, but none after May 7 ; and Playne saw two near Ajaccio in April.

55. *MUSCICAPA COLLARIS* Bechst. Collared Flycatcher.

One was shot near Bastia by Wharton on April 10.

56. *PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA COLLYBITA* (Vieill.). Chiffchaff.

An exceedingly common winter visitor to all the low-lying parts of the island, especially in the south. Parrot heard the song in all directions up to mid-March, but after that time

the numbers rapidly diminished, and Wharton observes that it is far less common in April, while Whitehead saw none in spring, and all had disappeared before the beginning of May, when I was on the island. There is no evidence of its breeding in Corsica.

57. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS* (L.). Willow-Warbler.

This species apparently occurs only on migration. Wharton found it fairly common after the beginning of April, but saw none in winter; Whitehead saw numbers on March 24, and Playne saw one at Corte and a few at Ajaccio in April. Parrot obtained one bird from the south-west coast on March 28 (wing 70 mm.).

58. *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX* (Bechst.). Wood-Warbler.

The Wood-Warbler also occurs on migration, but apparently a pair or two occasionally remain to breed. Wharton saw several after April 10; Playne met with a few among the olives at Ajaccio in April, and on May 10 I found a pair which had evidently settled down to breed in a swampy wood near the coast, but I was unable to find the nest.

59. *CETTIA CETTI* (Marm.). Cetti's Warbler.

A common resident in the wooded swamps and among the thickets by the slow-flowing streams of the eastern plains from Bastia to Bonifacio, and in the Campo de l'Oro, but always in the neighbourhood of water. In spite of its extraordinarily skulking and secretive habits its presence is readily recognised by the occasional loud bursts of song with which it greets the passer-by. Playne found a nest among dead brambles, about 3 feet from the ground, nearly ready for eggs, on April 15, and we saw young birds on the wing at the end of May.

60. *LUSCINIOLA MELANOPOGON* (Temm.). Moustached Warbler.

Wharton shot an example in the Campo de l'Oro on January 4, and another near the same spot on the 7th. Whitehead saw a bird which apparently belonged to this species on November 17, but failed to secure it.

61. *ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS* (L.). Great Reed-Warbler.

Occurs on passage in small numbers. Wharton saw five and shot three on the east coast, April 16–22; while Whitehead only met with it on passage from May 7 to 8.

62. *ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS* (Vieill.). Reed-Warbler.

Giglioli describes this species as scarce along the east coast, and erroneously quotes Wharton in support of this statement, but it does not appear in Wharton's list. Backhouse shot at a bird in some reeds in the Gulf of Ajaccio which may have belonged here. Confirmation of this record is desirable.

63. *ACROCEPHALUS SCHENOBÆNUS* (L.). Sedge-Warbler.

Occurs on migration in spring and autumn. Wharton found it fairly common at Biguglia during April, and Giglioli records it as seen on October 5 near Sagone and on October 11 at Ostriconi.

64. *ACROCEPHALUS AQUATICUS* Gm. Aquatic Warbler.

Wharton saw several at Biguglia at the end of April, but found it much less common than the Sedge-Warbler. The dearth of *Acrocephali* in the reed-beds on the east coast is remarkable, in view of the ample supply of insect food.

65. *HYPOLAIS POLYGLOTTA* (Vieill.). Melodious Warbler.

Giglioli shot one near Porto Vecchio on September 26.

66. *SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA* (L.). Blackcap.

*Sylvia atricapilla paulucci* Arrigoni, Avicula, vi. p. 103 (1902—Sardinia).

Local names: *Terraiolo*, *Capinera* (Giglioli). During the winter Blackcaps are common, especially near Ajaccio, but in the summer they seem to be much less plentiful, though a certain number are to be found. Parrot believed that the majority of the winter visitors were not northern birds, but indigenous to the island, belonging to a darker race with darker grey nape and sides of the neck and less olive on the back. Whitehead found a nest, with young a few days old, on May 29, and I obtained one with four fresh eggs on

May 17. Three specimens procured during the winter near Ajaccio are ascribed by Parrot to *S. atricapilla atricapilla* (L.).

67. *SYLVIA COMMUNIS* Lath. Whitethroat.

A scarce visitor on passage ; two seen at Biguglia in April by Wharton and a few by Whitehead about April 20. Probably a few pairs stay to nest in the mountains, as Whitehead mentions having seen some there after mid-May.

68. *SYLVIA CURRUCA* (L.). Lesser Whitethroat.

Whitehead describes this species as a fairly common resident, and took a nest with four fresh eggs on April 19. Not recorded by other observers.

69. *SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA MELANOCEPHALA* (Gm.). Sardinian Warbler.

This is the most generally distributed and commonest Warbler in Corsica during the breeding-season, when it may be met with not only by the coast, but also on the scrub-covered mountain-sides, according to Backhouse even up to 4000 ft. It is resident on the island, and Parrot has heard the song of the male as early as January 30. The nest is well and solidly built, sometimes quite close to the ground, but generally in thick bush and well sheltered from the wind. The breeding-season must begin early, and more than one brood is reared during the summer, for I found a nest with young on May 12, and others with fresh eggs on the 10th, 21st, and 29th of that month ; while Whitehead took incubated eggs on May 15. There is considerable variety of coloration, but the erythristic type of egg, not uncommon in Spain, was not met with. One nest contained a Cuckoo's egg.

70. *SYLVIA CANTILLANS CANTILLANS* (Pall.) [*S. subalpina* auct.]. Western Subalpine Warbler.

Local name : *Scrizola*. A common summer visitor to the "macchia," arriving, according to Whitehead, about mid-April, while Giglioli records a specimen from Corte in October. The male may frequently be seen uttering his song while indulging in a short upward flight and rapid descent into the scrub. The nest is much slighter and



smaller than that of the Sardinian Warbler and may be found in cistus or in thick bushes, such as myrtle, but not at any height from the ground. The eggs are three or, more generally, four in number. Whitehead took his first nest on May 6, but most eggs are laid during the latter half of May. Not a single egg out of thirty-nine examined shewed any tendency to erythristic colouring, though this type is quite common in some parts of Spain and is also found in eggs of the eastern race from Greece. The average size of thirty-nine Corsican eggs is  $16\cdot79 \times 13\cdot03$  mm.; max.  $19\cdot1 \times 13\cdot7$ , min.  $15 \times 12\cdot1$ . A nest found on May 21 contained one egg and also one of a Cuckoo.

71. *SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA CONSPICILLATA* Temm. Spectacled Warbler.

Another summer visitor to the "macchia" on the hillsides. Whitehead found a nest with three eggs and snared the bird on May 13. He also saw several others in the vicinity. Giglioli describes this species as tolerably common and sedentary, but this is probably an error.

72. *SYLVIA UNDATA* (Bodd.). Furze-Warbler.

As already pointed out by Hartert and Parrot, Corsican birds, on account of their smaller dimensions and dark colouring, seem to approach very closely to the North African form, *S. undata toni* Hart., but the examination of further material is desirable. Whitehead met with this species in two localities in February; Backhouse and Giglioli record it from Ajaccio in winter, and the latter also met with it in the Golfe de Porto early in October. I found young already on the wing and old nests on the east coast on May 11. Parrot records specimens from the Ajaccio market; he also obtained one from Solanio, and observed others on Finosa at about 1500 ft., in March. It is evidently a local resident.

73. *SYLVIA SARDA* Temm. La Marmora's Warbler.

*Sylvia sarda affinis* Parrot, Orn. Monatsber. xviii. p. 156 (1910—Corsica).

Parrot states that on the average Corsican birds are

shorter-winged than Sardinian, but the supposed differences in colour prove to be due to seasonal changes. This is a common resident in the macchia, not only on the coast and islets but also on the brush-covered mountain-slopes inland. Like the Subalpine Warbler it frequently utters its song on the wing, dropping immediately afterwards into the scrub. Lilford found it breeding on the islets in the Straits of Bonifacio, between Maddalena and Caprera, and obtained two nests with incubated eggs on May 15, while fledged young were seen on May 17. Whitehead took a nest with four eggs (incubated) on April 24, low down in a cistus bush, and I found one with four slightly incubated eggs on May 10. Average size of four Corsican eggs,  $16.85 \times 13.12$  mm.; max.  $17 \times 13.1$ , min.  $16.7 \times 13.1$  and  $17 \times 13$ . The nest is well and compactly built, but is hard to find, and the birds are difficult to get at on account of their skulking habits.

74. *CISTICOLA CISTICOLA* (Temm.). Fantail Warbler.

Wharton found this species numerous at Biguglia, but nowhere else, while Whitehead and Giglioli describe it as a common resident in the swamps.

75. *TURDUS PILARIS* L. Fieldfare.

Whitehead records a few seen in stormy weather from March 12 to 16, 1883.

76. *TURDUS VISCIVORUS REISERI* Schieb. Corsican Mistle Thrush.

*Turdus viscivorus reiseri*, Schiebel, Orn. Monatsber. xix. p. 85 (1911—Corsica and Sardinia).

Local names: *Tordela*; *Trizzine* (Giglioli). Not common, but resident and breeding in the pine-forests at 2500 ft. and upwards. Parrot met with it in the forests of Vizzavona and Aitone. During the winter months it also occurs on the low ground, and Backhouse found it common near Ajaccio in the hard winter of 1890–91. In 1909 R. H. Read and I found a very young bird, scarcely able to fly, on May 19, and on May 27 took a nest, with four beautiful eggs with bright blue ground-colour, from the trailing branches of a *Pinus laricio*. In the same tree was a Chaffinch's nest with fresh eggs. As far back as 1865 Vian noticed that these two birds were addicted

to breeding in company, and other observers, including Mr. R. J. Ussher, have since commented on the same fact. Similarly, the Brambling in Norway often places its nest close to that of the Fieldfare, no doubt for the purpose of protection (*cf.* 'Zoologist,' 1895, p. 290). Dr. Schiebel has recently separated this race on account of its slightly shorter wing and darker, more olive-grey colouring.

77. *TURDUS PHILOMELOS PHILOMELOS* Brehm. Continental Song-Thrush.

Local names : *Tordo*, *Tordolo*. A winter visitor in considerable numbers. Wharton observed none after March, but Whitehead notes the last seen on April 12, and Parrot saw the last flock on March 15. He also heard single males in song in February and early March.

78. *TURDUS MUSICUS* L. [*T. iliacus* auct.]. Redwing.

Wharton saw two and shot one on February 6 : another was found in the Ajaccio market, where Parrot also observed it on three occasions in January and February.

79. *TURDUS TORQUATUS* L. Ring Ousel.

One settled within ten yards of Whitehead during the great storm of March 12, 1883, but whether it belonged to the Scandinavian or Central European form is uncertain.

80. *TURDUS MERULA MERULA* L. Blackbird.

Local name : *Merlo*. Very large numbers visit the island from the Continent during the winter months and are shot and snared for the market in great quantities. These winter visitors leave in March, but a fair number of birds are resident in the island, breeding in the low ground and in the hills up to 3000 ft. or so, where the country is not too thickly forested. Wharton found no eggs till mid-April, and Jesse records nests on the 15th and 17th of that month, but probably more than one brood is reared.

81. *MONTICOLA SOLITARIUS SOLITARIUS* (L.). Blue Rock-Thrush.

Local name : *Merla petrajola*. A fairly common and generally distributed resident in all rocky ground, from the islets

in the Straits of Bonifacio to the mountains in the interior of the island. It is generally to be met with in pairs, and the male often sings while flying up in the air and descending again. Whitehead says that in severe weather the birds often come into the towns. He also found a nest with four young a few days old on May 14, while we found fledged young on May 22. [Although *Monticola saxatilis*, the Rock-Thrush, has not yet been recorded from Corsica, I think that it may prove to occur there, as a forester gave me a very accurate description of the bird and stated that a few individuals were resident in the mountains.]

82. *SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE ŒNANTHE* (L.). Common European Wheatear.

A fairly common visitor on migration, some few pairs probably remaining to breed. In 1883 Whitehead recorded the first arrival on March 24, and in the following year on March 30; but at Corte, Wharton did not observe it till April 8. Parrot shot a male on the Isles Sanguinaires on March 28, and saw a female on the following day. Whitehead mentions having found a pair high up in the mountains on May 12, which were probably breeding, and I saw a male on a promontory on the east coast on May 11, which may have had a mate incubating close at hand. The only specimen obtained by Parrot has a wing-measurement of 91.5 mm.

83. *PRATINCOLA RUBETRA* (L.). Whinchat.

A visitor on migration, staying only a few days according to Whitehead, who records the first arrival in 1883 on April 15 and in 1884 on April 20. Wharton first noted it at Biguglia on April 17, and Playne saw one near Corte on the 20th.

84. *PRATINCOLA TORQUATUS INSULARIS* Parr. Corsican Stonechat.

*Pratincola torquata insularis* Parrot, Orn. Monatsber. xviii. p. 155 (1910—Corsica).

Local names: ♂ *Prete*, ♀ *Nonna* (Giglioli). Separated by Dr. Parrot on account of its somewhat smaller size, the deeper black of the upper surface, the duller and less rusty

edges to the feathers, and the more intense colouring of the under side and head, when compared with the continental race. It is exceedingly common on the west side of the island, but much less plentiful on the east side, and is resident, ranging in summer to the mountain valleys in the interior, and descending in winter to the plage. Whitehead records fully fledged young on June 16, but I saw young on the wing on May 19, and Parrot received one shot on May 25.

85. *PHÆNICURUS PHÆNICURUS* (L.). Redstart.

Local name : *Nuaggiolo* (Giglioli). Occurs only on passage in small numbers : several were seen after April 10 by Wharton. Whitehead saw very few, all between March 24 and April 19 ; Playne noted a few in April and Parrot obtained a male on April 10.

86. *PHÆNICURUS OCHRURUS GIBRALTARIENSIS* (Gm.). Black Redstart.

Not known at present except as a winter visitor. Whitehead is the only observer who describes it as common at that season : in the Ajaccio district Wharton, Backhouse, and Parrot all regard it as far from common. Parrot's latest record is dated March 13, but Whitehead observed it as late as March 28. There is no evidence of its breeding.

87. *LUSCINIA MEGARHYNCHA CORSA* Parr. Corsican Nightingale.

*Luscinia megarhyncha corsa* Parrot, Orn. Monatsber. xviii. p. 155 (1910—Corsica).

Local name : *Rusignolo*. Dr. Parrot distinguishes the Corsican breeding birds on account of their somewhat shorter wings, the darker brown of the upper surface, especially on the head and back, and the colder, more greyish-brown tinge on the throat and edges of the primaries. To the low ground and foothills this bird is a very common summer visitor, but it does not ascend to any height in the mountains. Whitehead notes the dates of first arrivals in 1883 and 1884 as April 19 and April 7. Wharton's statement in 'The Ibis,' 1876, p. 21, that it was noticed on "March" 16, is a slip of the pen for

April (*cf.* Dresser, 'Birds of Europe,' ii. p. 365). In the thickets near Ghisonaccia and Aleria this bird is extremely plentiful, and the chorus of melody about 4.30 A.M. towards the end of May is something never to be forgotten. Many of the nests are placed 3 ft. or more from the ground in bramble thickets, and full clutches may be found from May 14 onwards. Average size of 26 Corsican eggs,  $20\cdot82 \times 16\cdot02$  mm.; max.  $22\cdot9 \times 17$ , min.  $19\cdot5 \times 15\cdot7$  and  $20\cdot1 \times 15\cdot3$ .

88. *LUSCINIA SUECICA CYANECULA* (Wolf). White-spotted Bluethroat.

Only three records on spring migration : one shot by Jesse on April 12 at Biguglia, another killed by Whitehead on March 28, and an old male obtained by Parrot on March 28 on the Isles Sanguinaires.

89. *DANDALUS RUBECULA SARDUS* (Kleinschm.). Sardinian Redbreast.

*Erithacus dandalus sardus* Kleinschmidt, Falco, ii. p. 71 (1906—Sardinia).

Local name : *Pettirosso*. Distinguished from the Continental Redbreast by the darker and more olive tone of the upper surface and the deeper red-brown of the throat and upper breast, in this respect approaching our British insular form, *D. rubecula melophilus*. Parrot noticed considerable variation in winter-killed specimens, among which probably both *D. r. sardus* and *D. r. rubecula* were represented. During the winter Redbreasts are very abundant in the plain, and great numbers are killed for the market. Most of these disappear as spring advances, but even in the plage an occasional pair may be found breeding in the densest macchia. They are, however, decidedly rare, but in the mountain forests at 2000–3000 ft. and upwards they are quite common, especially among the pine-woods.

[To be continued.]